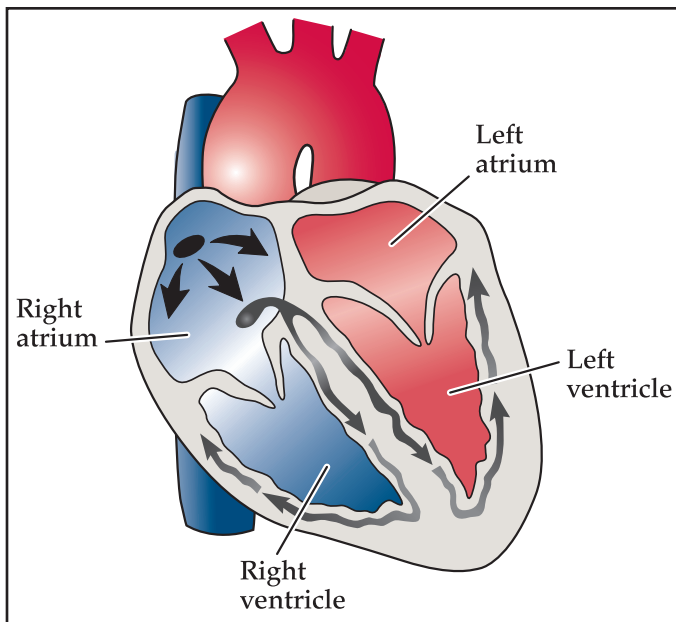


Echogenic Intracardiac Focus

Echogenic Intracardiac Focus

During the second trimester, your baby's heart will be looked at using an ultrasound.

Occasionally, one or more bright spots are seen in the heart. These spots are called an echogenic intracardiac focus. They are usually seen in the muscle wall of the ventricles.



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The four chambers of your baby's heart will be looked at during the ultrasound.

An echogenic intracardiac focus is found in 1 out of every 20 to 30 pregnancies. It does not affect the health of your baby or how their heart develops.

The spots usually do not go away before your baby is born. If they are still found on an ultrasound after your baby is born, this is considered normal and will not cause problems for your baby.

Causes

The cause of an echogenic intracardiac focus is unknown.

It is possible that calcium deposits in the muscle wall of the ventricles may cause these spots. Calcium is a natural mineral found in the body. Areas of the body that have more calcium, such as bones, show up brighter on an ultrasound.

An echogenic intracardiac focus can be seen in any pregnancy, but is more common in females with Asian ancestry.

Treatment

There is no treatment for an echogenic intracardiac focus. In most cases, additional tests are not needed.

(over)

Prenatal Testing

There is usually not an increased risk for Down syndrome if there are no other concerns with the ultrasound.

If there are other concerns, you and your health care provider can talk about prenatal tests available during pregnancy. These tests can provide information about whether there may be a higher than expected chance for certain problems such as chromosome conditions such as Down syndrome.

Your health care provider can help you decide if prenatal testing is right for you.